



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Director of Children and Family Services  
Director of Health Services

At its meeting held November 15, 2005, the Board took the following action:

36-C

The following item was called up for consideration:

Supervisor Antonovich's recommendation to direct the Director of Children and Family Services in collaboration with the Director of Health Services, to report back to the Board within 90 days with a plan to establish a mandatory training program with public and private hospitals and clinic staff, which would review the required mandatory child abuse/neglect reporting laws in place; also direct the Department of Health Services Facility Support Services Division to submit the State Community Care Licensing's report related to Garfield Medical Center's deficiencies to the State's Medical Board and Board of Registered Nurses.

Supervisor Antonovich made the following statement:

"On October 14, 2005, the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) reported the death of two-year-old Sarah C., a child under DCFS supervision. The child was taken to Garfield Medical Center for a broken arm. However, against medical advice, her caretakers were allowed to return home with the child, resulting in the child's life-threatening trauma injuries and death. Currently, DCFS is in the process of investigating the case to determine any violation of case management to prevent future occurrences as in the case of Sarah C.

"The State Community Care Licensing Division investigated Garfield Medical Center and found that the hospital failed to follow protocols related to nurse assessment of the pediatric patient, and the nurses and physician failed to follow protocols related to suspected child abuse.

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36-C (Continued)

“Hospital staff who work with children are mandated child abuse/neglect reporters by law and, as such, the enforcement of mandated child abuse/neglect reporting is the responsibility of law enforcement agencies. To protect children, DCFS has made efforts to enhance mandated reporter training. The Department of Children and Family Services has developed an interagency website for mandated reporters designed to better identify children and families who may be at risk of abuse/neglect, and has presented 34 community-mandated reporter sessions, as well as 21 community-outreach presentations since 2004. However, it is imperative that DCFS and the Department of Health Services have a more direct role in the training of mandated child abuse/neglect reporting for public and private hospitals.”

Yvonne Michelle Autry and Warren Williams addressed the Board.

After discussion, on motion of Supervisor Antonovich, seconded by Supervisor Molina, unanimously carried, the Board took the following actions:

1. Directed the Director of Children and Family Services, in collaboration with the Director of Health Services, to report back to the Board within 90 days with a plan to establish a mandatory training program with public and private hospitals and clinic staff, which would review the required mandatory child abuse/neglect reporting laws in place; and
2. Directed the Department of Health Services' Facility Support Services Division to submit the State Community Care Licensing's report and corrective action plan related to Garfield Medical Center's deficiencies to the State's Medical Board and Board of Registered Nurses.

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